

Amendments to the specification

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 (paragraph 0089) as follows:

a1 Initially, one would assume that the only situation that the driver of a vehicle should be concerned with is if he or she decides that he or she wants to change lanes and after looking into the rear view mirror and not seeing an object in the blind spot, that he then proceeds to change ~~lines~~ lanes. Unfortunately, the blind spot problem is significantly more complicated. The road may be curved and the lane changing maneuver might be quite easily accomplished, however, based on the geometry of the blind spot detecting system, using prior art systems, the driver is warned that he cannot execute such a lane change. This may be fallacious in that the vehicle that the system determines is in the blind spot may actually be in a different lane. Under the stress of congested driving conditions, the driver will not tolerate an erroneous message and thereby he might lose confidence in the system.

a2 Please amend the 1st full paragraph on page 28 (paragraph 0165) as follows:

a2 If the receiving array of assembly 110 contains a matrix of 100 by 100 pixels, then 10,000 pixels or data elements of information will be created each time the system interrogates the space on the driver side of the vehicle, for example. Interrogation of the space on the driver side of the vehicle would entail commanding the assembly to transmit optical waves or energy into the environment surrounding the vehicle by means of the transmitter component of the assembly 110 and receiving any reflected optical waves or energy by the receiver component of the assembly 110. There are many pixels of each image that can be eliminated because they do not contain any useful information. This typically includes the corner pixels and other areas where an object cannot ~~reside~~ be located. This pixel pruning can typically reduce the number of pixels by up to 20 percent resulting in approximately 8,000 remaining pixels. The output from each array is then preprocessed to extract the salient features and fed to an artificial neural network, or other pattern recognition system, to identify ~~of~~ the object. This preprocessing frequently makes use of distance information to separate one object from another and from other parts of the scene. Once this operation is completed for all of the object images, the identification of the objects in the space proximate to the driver side of the vehicle has been determined.